

Remarks

Claims 1, 5, 22, and 23 are currently amended. Claims 2-4, 7, 9, 11-14, 19-21, 25, 35, 36, and 44-49 are currently cancelled. New claims 50-52 have been added. Claims 1, 5, 8, 10, 15-18, 22, 23, 26, 28-34, 37-43, and 50-52 are pending.

Objections

Claims 4, 5, 8, 10, 42, and 43 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In order to expedite prosecution and allowance, Applicant has combined dependent claims 2 and 4 with claim 1. Accordingly, claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claim 2. Claims 5, 22, and 23 now depend from claim 1.

Claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 50. Claims 42 and 43 have been rewritten as new independent claim 52.

All of the remaining dependent claims are dependent upon an allowable independent claim. Thus, all of the dependent claims are also allowable.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 1-3, 15-18, 22, 23, 26, 28-34, and 37-41 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ashida et al. (U.S. 6,357,871 B1).

In view of the discussion above, the above rejection is moot. Accordingly, Applicants request that the above rejection of claims 1-3, 15-18, 22, 23, 26, 28-34, and 37-41 be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.



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Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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